

MAR 12 2013

## SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO INCLUDE RESIDENT CITIZENS OF THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES WHO LAWFULLY RESIDE IN THE UNITED STATES AS "QUALIFIED ALIENS" UNDER THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996 IN RECOGNIZING THEIR UNIQUE HISTORIC AND ONGOING SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

1 WHEREAS, the Freely Associated States of Palau, the  
2 Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of  
3 Micronesia comprise a multitude of islands, languages, and  
4 cultures throughout the Micronesian regions of the Pacific  
5 Ocean; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, the Freely Associated States were former Trust  
8 Territories of the United States and, as sovereign nations,  
9 continue to place their trust in the United States through the  
10 Compacts of Free Association; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, the Compacts of Free Association between the  
13 Freely Associated States and the United States of America  
14 recognize the historic sacrifices and contributions of the  
15 citizens of the Freely Associated States to the interests of the  
16 United States of America, including:  
17

18 (1) The use of their island atolls for sixty-seven nuclear  
19 tests from 1946 to 1958, which subjected Marshallese  
20 people to human radiation experiments without their  
21 knowledge or their consent; and  
22

23 (2) The occupation by the United States military of the  
24 island atolls to ensure control of the Pacific; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, under the Compacts of Free Association, the United  
27 States continues to exercise exclusive military jurisdiction  
28 over the lands and waters of the Freely Associated States and  
29 continues to use the atolls as part of the United States  
30 National Missile Defense Program's long-range intercontinental  
31 ballistic missile defense system; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, decades of United States administration have  
3 failed to establish economic independence within the Freely  
4 Associated States, contributing to a lack of adequate  
5 agricultural, educational, and health infrastructure necessary  
6 for a self-sufficient society; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, in addition to these sacrifices, the sons and  
9 daughters of the citizens of the Freely Associated States  
10 continue to lay down their lives in the interest of the United  
11 States, representing some of the highest levels of per-capita  
12 military personnel recruitment levels to the United States  
13 military compared to any other jurisdiction including the fifty  
14 states comprising the United States of America; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, the people of the Freely Associated States have  
17 also contributed greatly to Hawaii's understanding of the common  
18 cultural heritage and pride of all Pacific Islanders, such as  
19 traditional navigation techniques that were kept alive by the  
20 late "Papa" Mau Piailug; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, despite the limited right to travel, reside, work,  
23 and take advantage of educational opportunities, and medical  
24 treatment in the United States, citizens of the Freely  
25 Associated States who lawfully reside in the United States  
26 continue to encounter substantial and varied forms of  
27 discrimination including cultural, economic, linguistic, and  
28 social barriers; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, despite the rights to reside and seek economic  
31 opportunity in the United States as granted to the citizens of  
32 the Freely Associated States, the Personal Responsibility and  
33 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 denied citizens of  
34 the Freely Associated states who reside in the United States  
35 eligibility for numerous federal benefits, including Medicaid,  
36 Social Security Income, food stamps, housing, and other social  
37 safety nets that are accessible by other legal resident  
38 immigrants; and  
39

40 WHEREAS, this discrepancy has resulted in the harsh and  
41 disparate treatment of a significant number of Hawaii's  
42 residents who are citizens of the Freely Associated States,  
43 causing them to suffer adverse health consequences and even  
44 death; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, H.R. 912, "Restoring Medicaid for Compact of Free  
3 Association Migrants Act of 2013", in the United States House of  
4 Representatives, as introduced by United States Representative  
5 Colleen Hanabusa on February 28, 2013, amends title IV of the  
6 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act  
7 of 1996 to restore Medicaid coverage for citizens of the Freely  
8 Associated States lawfully residing in the United States under  
9 the Compacts of Free Association between the Government of the  
10 United States and the Governments of the Federated States of  
11 Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the  
12 Republic of Palau, thereby providing relief from Hawaii's  
13 burdensome uncompensated Medicaid costs for these individuals;  
14 now, therefore,  
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013,  
18 that the United States Congress is urged to include citizens of  
19 the Freely Associated States who lawfully reside in the United  
20 States as "qualified aliens" under the Personal Responsibility  
21 And Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 in recognizing  
22 their unique historic and ongoing sacrifices and contributions  
23 to the United States of America; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's Congressional delegation,  
27 President of the United States, President Pro Tempore of the  
28 United States Senate, Majority and Minority Leaders of the  
29 United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of  
30 Representatives, Majority and Minority Leaders of the United  
31 States House of Representatives, Chair of the Appropriations  
32 Committee of the United States Senate, Chair of the Committee on  
33 Ways and Means of the United States House of Representatives,  
34 and Governor.  
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36  
37

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